The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

FEBRUARY, 2007 Volume 2, Issue 2 Copyright RCT

FROM THE EDITOR...

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Unless you have been hiding under a rock, you must know by now that sweeping changes are impacting our beloved hobby/service.

Last month, we saw massive changes to the phone allocations on many of the bands. We had just gotten used to that when our fearless leaders in Washington dropped yet another, bigger bomb on the service: **MORSE CODE TESTING HAS BEEN ELIMINATED!** Let me say that again: Morse code testing has been entirely eliminated from Amateur testing.

What this means, and what the impact will be has yet to be determined. Most of us are still reeling from the one-two punch dealt to us by the recent regulatory changes.

I'm sure that we will adapt, we always have. But… the manner in which this was done has shocked many an OT. This was dropped from out of the blue and it kind of makes this Amateur think that the boys in the FCC simply wanted to clear off their calendars.

Simple as that. The simple lack of a warning indicates their immense lack of concern for us.

OH, Well… Nothing new from the FCC!

Now, having vented, I'll recommend that we all take a waiting stance on this. There is no reason to go off half-cocked spouting rumors of gloom, doom and the "End of Amateur radio!".

Other countries in the world have made this change, with no noticeable reduction in sunshine. Some how, the world continues on as before, day still follows night, and I never did work the VU7 expedition!

So lets try to adjust in a civilized manner and lead by example. That is the best, and in my not-so-humble opinion, the only way to move forward.

If you hear an infraction, gently correct the wayward ham, hopefully off the air, and help them learn as they go. Do not take the attitude that they don't, won't or can't learn from us!

Also, don't talk down to or about the newbie's on the air. It has been proven many times that there are many, many SWL's out there. Our hobby is unique in that we are always in the public view.

Let us not forget that simple fact!

73, Gary WG7X

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
27 December, 2006

The 27 December 2006 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Mick Pier-KK7QS called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: KK7QS	Mick Pier --
Secretary: KD4VOM	Larry Watson --
Treasurer: KD7TRC	Pat Wingerter --
Board Member --W7GX	Gary McAdams
Board Member K7MO	Nick Winter –

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. 39 were in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Was led by Mick Pier KK7QS

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self Introductions were completed

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

It was reported that Herman (Pete) Jones N8PSJ has become a Silent Key

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence: Larry KD4VOM reported the usual utility bills and bank statements, The Post Office rent is due, and we've received the March company insurance policies for our equipment and liability insurance. There were several W7DK/90 QSL cards, a membership application and other club newsletters.

We've also received the a Trailer License notice tab, and the Annual Sales Tax reporting form, and the Crawford Mountain repeater site lease renewal notice.

Larry KD4VOM read Paul Leblanc K7AXJ's letter declining to serve as Treasure for the 2007-2009 term.

Mick Pier KK7QS announced that the Treasurer's position will be filled by appointment of the incoming President Randy Thompson AD7FF.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat Wingerter – KD7TRC

The Treasurer's report was made available for viewing

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Training and Education: Steve Morton AD7AB announced that the next Technician Licensing Class would be conducted on January 6th and 7th at the Clubhouse. There is plenty of space for more students.

There were also comments about the FCC's removal of the Code requirement for Amateur Radio Licensing

Planning Committee: Larry Watson KD4VOM reminded folks that the Planning Team meets the day following every regular membership meeting which usually falls on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month. All are invited to attend and participate in the planning process.

PROGRAM: Larry Watson KD4VOM, presented "The State of the Radio Club of Tacoma", a combined overview of club background and history, together with its governing documents; The Washington State Articles of Incorporation, Club Bylaws and Standing Rules. The presentation included a listing of most of the clubs functions along with a subjective "ranking" of their operations. The report included a financial review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Treasurer Elect: The candidate elected to serve as Treasurer for the term 2007-2009, Paul LeBlanc K7AXJ has submitted his letter refusing to serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Awards Banquet: Larry KD4VOM recapped the annual Awards Banquet held on 15 December at the Lakewood Community Center.

The Awards Banquet hosted around 50 folks despite the huge windstorm which had many, if not most of us without power for several days. At least, the Lakewood Community Center had its power back to handle our banquet.

Announced at the 15 December Awards Banquet were two Doc Spike Award winners, Nick Winter K7MO, and Mick Pier KK7QS. Multiple recognition of service certificates were presented to Gary McAdams WG7X, Bob Purdom KE7DGQ, John Clarke AC7WW, Bob Heselberg, K7MXE, Larry Watson KD4VOM, Pat Wingerter

KD7TRC, Rich Patrick KR7W, Frank Palmer AC7JY, Rick Rose KE7EMW, Jill Palmer K7JIL, Steve Blacksten KD7UBE, Steve Morton AD7AB, Chuck Kemmer AC7QN, Doug Oakman AD7AV and more, but these I remembered…

Mick Pier, KK7QS: This was Mick's last general membership meeting, ending over six years of continuous service as our presiding officer; the membership gave him a hearty round of applause as well as a "Well Done".

First CW Contact: Rich Patrick KR7W presented a First CW Contact Certificate to Linda Adams KE7FKX for her CW contact with W7DK/90 on 19 October 2006 on 40 Meters.

ARRL Straight Key Night: Rich Patrick reminded us that the ARRL Straight Key night is coming up on 31 December. It will be a social pot luck affair and folks will be invited to try their hand on the old oak rig with a straight key or one of the other tube type rigs available. Rich plans to have the clubhouse open from around 3pm to around 9 pm on New Year's Eve…

Discussion Topics:

Screwdriver Antennas: Steve Blacksten KD7UBE brought in an original Don Johnson screwdriver for folks to get a look at the technology used around 40 years ago…

Radio History: There followed a discussion about the ARRL "Hello" program which ends this year, and the 100th anniversary of Reginald Fessendens discovery of heterodyning which was a milestone and enabled the transition from spark gap to audio transmitted signals.

The Worth Report: Worth W7WG reminded us that when he was on the Board, he complained that we didn't follow Roberts Rules of Order.

General and Extra Class Training: There was a discussion of how best to teach the General and Extra Classes, and a recap of the procedures Jerry W7BUN used so effectively for so many years…

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

RICHARD (LARRY) WATSON KD4VOM
MICK PIER KK7QS
Secretary
President

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
24 January 2007

The 24 January Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Randy Thompson AD7FF called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President:	Randy Thompson AD7FF
Vice President:	Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Secretary:	Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer:	Pat Wingerter -- KD7TRC
Board Member:	Alan Lentz – W7AML
Board Member	Bob Purdom— KE7DGQ
Board Member	Peter Baker – AD7EU
Board Member	Nick Winter – K7MO

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 44 in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Was led by President Randy Thompson AD7FF

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self Introductions were completed along with welcoming of guests

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

Jill Palmer K7JIL reported on recent Silent Keys; Jim Burns KC7SYT; Louis Iverson Jr. W7ENR, and Wally Anderson, N7YFS

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence: Larry KD4VOM reported the usual bank statements and utility bills along with a handful of QSL cards. Mike and Key Hamfest flyers have been received and are posted on the Clubhouse Bulletin Board. *A copy of the current correspondence log is attached to the original minutes.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat Wingerter – KD7TRC

The Treasurer's Report was made available for review

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Repeater Committee: Nick Winter K7MO reported that he has completed the lightning arrestor and halo ground hookup requirements for the Crawford Mountain repeater, and noted that the lease has been paid and renewed.

VE Team: John Clarke AC7WW reported on the 9 January VE session which saw seven candidates take 22 elements. 12 elements were passed and seven new technicians joined the Amateur Radio Service along with 2 General Licensees. Ten VE's helped to make for a smooth session. Congratulations to the new Licensees. *The VE report is attached to the original copy of the minutes.*

Planning Team: Larry KD4VOM announced that the Planning Team will meet on Friday instead of the normal Thursday this week – at the clubhouse at 6:30 pm

PROGRAM: Nick Winter – K7MO

Tonight's program was an excellent reprise showing of the 1955 Field Day movie made at Joe Asplund's farm at Eatonville. Nick added more color and insight from his experience although he wasn't at the 55 Field Day. Nick had also found the sound track that went with the movie which had been produced by KTNT TV.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Valentines Day Pot Luck: Jill K7JIL reminded folks of the upcoming Valentines Day Pot Luck which will be held at the clubhouse on Saturday, 10 February at 6 pm. She has commitments for a ham and chicken and you can bring whatever you want. An interesting Ham related game is planned as well.

Straight Key Night W7OS Reprise: Rich Patrick KR7W recapped the New Years Eve Straight Key event where the pot luck and camaraderie were outstanding; but the CW receiver operations left something to be desired.

As a result, Rich and the team are planning a "do over" in conjunction with the Valentines Day activities on 10 February, the mighty W7OS will hopefully roar back to life to the amazement and astonishment of the assembled crowds.

2 Meter homebrew antenna: Steve Blacksten displayed a homebrew 2 meter antenna, and donated one to tonight's door prize set.

W7DX Club: Harry Hudson K7LAZ reported on his recent participation at VP5W with a team that came in 10th in the World and 3rd in North America. He also invited members interested in DX work to join with the Seattle based W7DX club.

Saturday Open House: Rich Manson N7ANF observed that in past weeks there had been a smaller turnout so last Saturday he bought less donuts, of course then we had a larger crowd for open house. He noted that this coming Saturday is Swap meet and he is planning the usual hot dogs.

Discussion Topics:

Library Project: Larry KD4VOM reported on the work that has been done inventorying, creating a database and labeling our library documents. There is also a construction project to upgrade the library shelving. Rich Patrick KR7W is heading up the project, and we have received $200 in donations thus far against an expected materials cost of over $ 400. We would welcome your contributions to the Treasurer who will earmark the funds for this particular project.

Mike and Key Hamfest: Larry KD4VOM Coming up in March, Linda KE7FKX will have a signup sheet at the next meeting for those interested in helping to man our table at the Hamfest.

Hints and Kinks: Nick Winter K7MO reminded folks that there is a 160 meter CW contest coming up this weekend.

The Worth Report: Worth W7WG reported on his plans to present some of his older videos, and that he will work with Rich KR7W to get them for next meeting.

K6KPH QSO: Rich KR7W reported that last Saturday he was working the old rig and managed a QSO from a gent in California operating the Maritime Historical Society K6KPH station at Point Reyes who noted that the signal had a very bad "Chirp"… *K6KPH uses the original transmitters, receivers and antennas of famous ex-RCA coast station KPH. The transmitters are located at the transmitting station founded by the American Marconi Co. in 1913 at Bolinas, CA. The receivers and operators will be at the KPH receiving station about 20 miles north at Pt. Reyes, CA.*

Rich KR7W noted that on Straight Key Night, K6KPH answered Morel's CQ, but due to technical difficulties Morel couldn't hear him due to technical difficulties. Rich also recorded some of Morel's CQ calls… He played his audio of Morel's W7OS transmissions…

Door Prize won by:
Blitz Bug Lightning Arrestor/Harry Wong N7DOE
2 Meter Home Brew Antenna/ ??

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

RICHARD (LARRY) WATSON KD4VOM
RANDY THOMPSON AD7FF
Secretary
President

VE REPORT by John AC7WW

Trying to beat the approaching storm, eleven Volunteer Examiners administered a total of 22 elements to ten candidates on the evening of January 9th at the Radio Club of Tacoma clubhouse.

Of the 22 elements administered 12 were passed. Seven new Technicians joined the Amateur ranks. An Amateur with an expired Advance license passed Element two and three to become a General with credit for Element one. Another amateur with a Tech Plus license passed element three to become a General.

It was a very smooth session thanks to the help from the following VE's.

Steve Blacksten, KD7UBE
Al Churchill, AC7BU
Jon Hamilton, AD7AW
Rich Heasty, KK7VH
Chris Jensen, W7YX
Jim Lawrence, N7RHX
Stephen Morton, AD7AB
Don Perry, K7QLC
Roland Svensson, WQ7P
Larry Smith, AB7FJ

BOARD MEETING
3 January, 2007

The 3 January 2007 board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma club house. President Randy Thompson AD7FF called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President:	Randy Thompson AD7FF
Vice President:	Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Secretary:	Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer:	Pat Wingerter-- KD7TRC
Board Member	Gary McAdams -- W7GX
Board Member	Peter Baker – AD7EU
Board Member	Nick Winter – K7MO
Board Member:	Alan Lentz – W7AML

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached; Attendance at the Board meeting was 16.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Minutes from the 6 December 2006 board meeting were approved as read/corrected.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence:

Key correspondence received included: A Washington Mutual Fund Proxy package; Trailer License renewal; Annual Sales Tax reporting forms; Bulk Mail statement; USPS Post Office Box Rent due; Crawford Mountain Repeater Site Lease renewal; March company equipment and liability renewal policies, Qwest phone bill.

Also received and read was the Letter dated 27 December 2006, From Paul LeBlanc K7AXJ declining to serve as Treasurer.

The current correspondence log is attached to the original copy of the minutes.

Illness/Silent Key: Jill reported that her sympathy card for Silent Key Helen Asplund W7WRI had returned undeliverable. Nick Winter K7MO suggested we resend the card to the old Eatonville address in our roster. Rick Rose KE7EMW

provided the address from his records.

Marvin Wheeler KG7V. : Nick Winter let us know that Marvin Wheeler KG7V has returned to the area for surgery at Madigan, probably next week.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat Wingerter – KD7TRC

Pat presented an end of year financial report which included the usual monthly report for December 2006 as well as a three year comparison (2004 – 2005 – 2006) of the major income and expense items. Pat's analysis indicates that while our "Must Pay" expenses, e.g. Taxes, Utility Bills, Insurance and the like are increasing over time, our principal Income e.g. Hamfair, Donations, Equipment Sales, and Book Sales are declining while Membership has increased slightly. Last years donations increased only because of a one-time major vehicle donation.

Pat provided the following financial recommendations to the 2007 Board

1. Determine which "activities*" you want the RCT to participate in this year

2. Assign a chairperson to each of those activities

3. Require the chairperson to each of those activities

4. Require the chairperson to submit a funding proposal for the activity by the end of February

Find a person, preferably with a business account at Costco, to stock and manage supplies at the clubhouse… this would include office supplies; (Xerox paper, Ink Cartridges , envelopes, stamps, etc, as well as kitchen supplies; coffee, cream, cups, plates, napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, dish detergent etc.)

* Past "activities" include: Award Banquet; Field Day; Puyallup Fair Booth; W7DK at the Beach; Mother's Day breakfast.

In the discussion that followed, Nick K7MO pointed out that we also need to look at other accruing expenses such as the clubhouse related, repeater phone expenses for autopatch which might be accomplished another way saving one phone line. Nick also suggested we focus on activities that bring new people into the club, e.g., the Puyallup Fair, Field Day. Larry KD4VOM pointed out that much of the cost of most of these activities, e.g., picnic, field day etc. are hard to pin down because items purchased for the picnic were moved on to field day, or went back to the clubhouse (e.g. sodas, buns, hot dogs). There are also indications that the Open House and Meeting coffee and donut/cookies operations actually are costing more than they get from donations.

Larry also pointed out that there is an unfunded debt accruing from the deteriorating condition of the clubhouse itself. One day it will have to be faced and we should be planning for that certainty. Peter AD7EU tabled the idea of requesting a State Property Tax exemption. He has located the form and the fee is $35.00. It can't hurt to apply and we could certainly use the exemption. Peter will print out the form and send copies by e-mail to the board members.

A copy of the Monthly financial statement is attached to the original copy of the minutes.

Copies of the Treasurer's end of year and three year analysis are also attached to the original copy of the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Doc Spike Awards: Frank AC7JY noted the Awards Banquet presentation of the two Doc Spike Awards to Nick Pier KK7QS, and Nick Winter K7MO. He took the opportunity to present Nick with the award and plaque.

Library Report: Doug Oakman AD7AV provided a comprehensive report on Library operations and the status of the seven original projects. Project 1, the weeding or culling of the library was carried out by Mike Compton KB7ZDR, Project 3, deciding the on the acceptance of donated items has been completed, Project 4, the stamping and labeling of library items is underway, and Project 7, establishing a library computer terminal to access the catalog has a computer and is awaiting the completion of the searchable digital catalog. Doug has essentially completed and stabilized the Library inventory, indexing and creation of the library database. This database will ported in a form usable by Rick Rose's Club master database. Work is in progress indexing and documenting the Clubs large photographic holdings as well.

Doug AD7AV has been in contact with other club librarians both to exchange ideas as well as to assist others in the determination of value for items lost/destroyed.

We have many rare and valuable holdings

which deserve to be protected. We also have 99 missing publications out of 1074 in our QST set. Doug will provide the list to Rick KE7EMW who will get the word out in case someone has or can find the publications needed to complete our library set. The Library operations policy can be found on the W7DK Website http://www.w7dk.org/

Doug proposed the 2007 Goals of setting up a system for managing and accepting library donations and possibly pursuing acquisitions. Perhaps a budget for acquisitions should be developed. Another 2007 Goal is the completion of the Library physical plant by construction of improved shelving. Rich Patrick KR7W has agreed to do this work, but needs funding to acquire the materials. Al Ferguson N7OMS has already donated $ 100 to the project and donations are solicited for completing the project. Diagrams of the proposed construction work are posted to the W7DK website.

Also remaining is the issue of protecting the most valuable holdings; perhaps a locked cabinet would provide the needed protection. *The complete report is attached to the original minutes*.

Awards Banquet Report: Rick Rose KE7EMW provided an attendance and expense report from the Awards Banquet, along with a comparison to previous years. The 200 Attendance was 84 while this year the huge wind and rainstorm power outages kept attendance to 50.

Membership Report: Rick Rose KE7EMW also provided an annual recap of Club membership. We know of six members who became Silent Keys this year, one member cancelled his membership and we lost contact with Margaret Syverson KA7RUQ. At the end of the year our membership count stood at 300.

Membership renewals are coming in and being processed. We sent 293 membership renewals and survey packages out and have so far received 112 returns, including one new ARRL membership and 8 ARRL membership renewals. Alan Lentz W7AML asked about the utility of the survey forms as compared to the effort. In the discussion that followed it seemed that since the forms come completed with already known/submitted data that they are being well received. We expect to have a much better understanding of the capabilities and interests of our membership to better serve them and use their skills. Accessing the master database will not be permitted, but using the information would be made available to support project and committee operations looking for specific skills.

Using the bulk mail permit, the cost of the entire mailing was less than $40, and once the database was set up the process of generating the forms was automatic.

Rick also tabled an idea to manage lifetime memberships. Once we receive a lifetime membership we accrue the original cash, but also loose an annual income. His proposal would be to establish a dedicated fund where lifetime membership funds would be deposited and the interest accruing to that fund could go to ongoing operations. Over the long haul, as members become silent keys, the fund would eventually become self supporting, and the interest would continue to benefit ongoing operations.

Hamfest 2007: It is important to note that our 2004 Hamfest has been sanctioned by the ARRL.

Planning Team Report: Larry Watson KD4VOM

The State of the RCT report: Those who attended the last regular general membership meeting had a look at the Club's history, governing documents and current operations. Because we have around 300 members and only 40 to 60, Larry is hoping to be able to generate a paper version to be made available to all current members.

Annual Checklist: needs to be completed and it will be on the agenda for next months board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

W7DK/90 Event: Peter AD7EU reports that the W7DK/90 cards and certificates are out, and delivered some at the meeting.

RCT Equipment Inventory Team: Larry Watson KD4VOM moved that the Board approve the appointment of Rich Patrick KR7W to conduct the equipment inventory and accounting team approved at the last board meeting. The motion was seconded and carried. Rich Patrick KR7W was appointed and provided the option of selecting the team members.

RCT Standing Rules Planning Committee Change: Larry read a first draft of the pro-

posed revision. Add New Paragraph 12.

12 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Radio Club of Tacoma will establish and maintain a Planning Committee to assist the Officers and Directors in the performance of their duties. The Planning Committee shall serve as a research, analysis and planning team to assess the Radio Club of Tacoma's operations and activities in order to identify issues and problem areas and to develop recommendations for addressing those issues and problems. Its work may include development of organizational structure, mission statements as well as operating procedures and policy recommendations to the Officers and Directors. Its work will include but not be limited to assisting other club managers, chairmen and project leaders when required and with the advice and concurrence of Club Officers and Board. The Chairman of the Planning committee shall serve at the pleasure of The Radio Club of Tacoma elected Officers and Board of Directors.

The Planning Committee may assist the Treasurer in the development of the Club's Annual and Three Year Budget, and assist the Officers and Directors in development of the Club's Annual and Three Year Operations Plan.

Copies will also be sent to board members for review and recommended changes etc. in preparation for next months board action.

NEW BUSINESS:

Payment of Normal and Routine Bills: The Bylaws require board approval of ongoing and normal bills if a budget has not already been approved. Since no 2007 budget has been approved, Larry KD4VOM moved that the board authorize the Treasurer to pay all normal and routine bills. Motion was seconded and carried.

RCT Real Property Tax Exemption: Peter Baker AD7EU recommended the club pursue application through the State for a real property tax exemption under our non-profit status. He has located the application form on line and will provide copies to board members by e-mail.

Emergency Operations and the RCT: Larry KD4VOM reported on a planning team discussion of Club emergency operations. There are several members interested in Emergency Operations and how the club participates. It became evident that there have been major changes in the relationships between various governmental and other emergency responders such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army and the amateur radio service.

The Katrina Hurricane devastation of New Orleans and surrounding areas exposed major flaws in emergency operating agencies and their ability to conduct a coordinated and effective response. As a result the Federal Emergency Management Agency has taken significant action to standardize emergency responders operations and communications. As a result of FEMA's changes, and in part because FEMA is funding portions of Federal, State and Local governmental emergency capability equipment and operations, the relationship of amateur radio, and the Radio Club of Tacoma to disaster response and participation in emergencies has significantly changed. FEMA and the ARRL require training and certification, ARES members requirements have also changed.

In effect we don't have a good understanding of the changes and what they may mean to the Radio Club of Tacoma. We do know that our Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Standing Rules have committed us to various emergency planning and operations capability. It is time to get a good and thorough review, especially of Government related emergency operations requirements and procedures, and then, armed with current information begin the task of determining where the Radio Club of Tacoma fits into emergency operations. Once that process is completed, it may well be necessary to make necessary changes to our governing documents to reflect the role that the Radio Club of Tacoma expects to play in support of disaster and emergency operations.

Larry recommended that Alan Lentz, W7AML and Peter Baker AD7EDU, both currently active in emergency operations get together with the other club members who have expressed an interest to research the field and prepare a report for the Board to begin the dialog about the future role of the Radio Club of Tacoma in this field. Bruce Mackey KD7UAQ, Chris Jensen W7YX, Larry Smith KD7RKX and Ken Gibson KE7IGZ have all expressed an interest in participating in this effort.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Valentine's Day Pot Luck: Jill K7JIL announced a Valentines Day potluck party with games is planned for Saturday, 10 February at 6pm at the Clubhouse.

Discussion Topics:

Silent Keys: Rick Rose KE7EMW noted that as a result of all the mailings we've conducted this year we have discovered many Silent Keys that are not represented on our board. Because we frequently don't get that information in a timely manner it would prove virtually impossible to list Silent Keys in a chronological order, but we do need to bring the board up to date with the known information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm

RICHARD (LARRY) WATSON KD4VOM
RANDY THOMPSON AD7FF
Secretary
President

RCT's Planning Team
November 2006

Greetings from the Radio Club of Tacoma Planning Team. This is the first of what we hope becomes a regular feature of the BARK. Its purpose is to bring visibility and understanding of the role of the Club's planning and programming effort.

A bit of history…

> *This is not the first time that the Radio Club of Tacoma has generated a planning effort. Our cursory reviews of the club's historical documents indicate multiple references and records of past planning efforts. What seems to be the cycle occurs every so often. It is characterized by a group getting together to address a set of club issues. Generally they begin by "brainstorming" and eventually evolve their list into a set of objectives. Next follows a series of meetings to address the issues list; some problems are solved and others prove intractable and eventually the team seems to, like old soldiers, "just fade away."*

The current planning team originated in 2005, and has evolved over the past year or so into a relatively stable group. It's principal purpose is to assist the Club and its Officers in identifying and addressing organizational, procedural, legal, financial, regulatory and documentation (Articles of Incorporation; Bylaws; Standing Rules and Standard Operating Procedures) issues. To that end it acts as a research and advisory team for the Club and its elected Officers.

Like all Club functions, committees, projects and programs, its meetings are open to all. Any active club member is welcome to attend and offer insight and input to the team as they tackle some of the Club's enduring issues.

We normally meet at the clubhouse the Thursday's following the Clubs regular membership meetings (2nd and 4th Wednesdays). We normally begin around 6:30 pm.

Please check with one of our cadre if you plan to attend just in case we have adjusted our meeting date or time for some reason.

Over the past year we have worked on multiple problems and projects. We constructed a large and comprehensive "Officers Handbook" and an associated Officers Orientation program to assist elected officials in understanding their duties and responsibilities. This helps them gain an understanding of the myriad of federal, state and local regulations governing the operation of an IRS designated, Washington State Non Profit corporation.

Among other activities the Planning Team, as augmented, was the driving force behind the 90th Anniversary Homecoming Banquet.

It assembled a Financial Review and Analysis team which is nearing the end of a long effort to determine how the various activities of the Club manage financial transactions and record keeping.

Some of the many topics the team is working on include:

Club Officers Orientation and Transition process

Club Organization and Functions – What are the jobs and who is doing them?

Club Organization and Functions – Where are the vacancies and voids and how do we fill them?

Club Equipment Management – What do we own and where is it?

Club Equipment Management – Developing an effective procedure for tracking our equipment

A New Member Orientation Handbook

Developing Standard Operating Procedures for our activities.

Conducting an exhaustive review of the Clubs documentation, archives and history, and then organizing, indexing and storing it.

Completing the Radio Club of Tacoma Video Documentary for the full 90 years of our existence

It is equally important to note that the Planning Team is not a decision making body. Those responsibilities rest squarely with your elected officers. Our job is to do the leg work, research, develop information and make recommendations to the Board and Officers for their consideration and action.

The current team:

Larry Watson KD4VOM. Chairman

Al Burleson K7HW

Rick Rose KE7EMW

Nick Winter K7MO

Paul LeBlanc K7AXJ

For the Homecoming Banquet project the team was ably augmented by:

Peter Baker AD7EU

Lee Barker KE7FCX

Al Ferguson N7OMS

Comments and recommendations are welcome.

Larry Watson KD4VOM
Planning Team
253-8543-2190
royretreat@mailcan.com

Visalia International DX Convention 2007

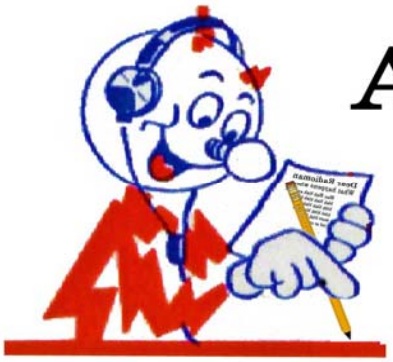
The 2007 International DX Convention will take place April 27, 28 & 29, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in Visalia, California. This is an ARRL sanctioned convention that is sponsored this year by the Northern California DX Club. It is expected to draw visitors from around the World and will feature programs from recent DX-Peditions and contest operations.

The Convention theme this year is, "Elmering New DXers is Job Number One!" Accordingly, a portion of the programming will be devoted to helping new DXers learn about how to be noticed in a pile-up, snag a "new one" and get that elusive QSL card.

Other Convention offerings will include: DX, Top Band and Contest Forums, technical talks, many door prizes, both Friday and Saturday evening "attitude adjustments", Saturday Barbecue Lunch, Saturday night banquet, Sunday morning "power" breakfast, Vendors Exhibits and QSL card checking.

Current information and registration forms are available on the Convention web page, which can be found at www.dxconvention.org. Additional registration information can be obtained by contacting Convention Registration Chairman, Dick Letrich, W6KM via Email at dlw6km@aol.com.

If you're interested in DX or DXing, the Visalia International DX Convention is *the* place to be. We hope to see you there.



Ask Radioman

Answers to your questions pertaining to Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio operation

Send your questions to: radioman@w7dk.org

Dear Radioman,

After Feb 23rd, I can pay the $14 filing fee and cash in my valid CSCE for ham test element 3. Then my new General Class license will show up in the mail. I'd like to explore the digital modes of operation on the HF bands. I've heard that PSK-31 doesn't require much power to operate and that might work for me because I can't put up a very big antenna at my house. I have an Icom 756 Pro-3 transceiver to use for this. How do I go about getting into PSK-31? Bob, KE9UYU, near Chicago.

Dear Bob,

PSK-31 is a great mode to communicate with. Radioman thanks you for considering conserving bandwidth on the soon to be crowded phone parts of the HF bands. PSK-31 allows the user to send text with your PC keyboard and receive text back on your PC screen. This mode is a good choice on your part, Bob. First I will list the parts that are needed and then briefly tell how it works.Good choice on your part. First I will list what parts are needed and then how to put it together.

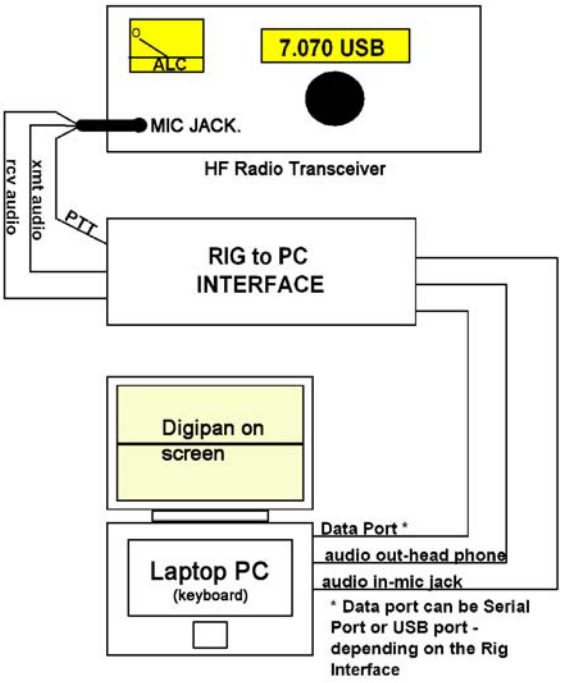
A PC with a medium good to very good soundcard. A modern Pentium 3 or 4 with the built in sound card will work fine. A very slow PC might not keep up. A serial interface on the PC is best to use with home built Rig Interfaces. A USB to SERIAL converter can be used to create a serial interface if your PC does not have one. Radio Shack sells a popular USB to Serial unit.

PSK-31 Software. Radioman uses and likes Digipan. It is free to download from the internet. Google search for Digipan. This program has a nice help section. So, be sure to completely read itthat before you start. There are other programs like Hamscope (free) and MixW which is like the Swiss Army knife of digital software because you can operate Slow Scan TV, RTTY, and other digital modes using the same PC to Radio interface used for PSK-31. MixW costs about $50 or so.

A PC to Radio Interface is needed. This gizmo takes the audio and data from your PC and adjusts the audio levels toward your radios audio input. The interface also takes the radio receive audio and sends it into the PC soundcard (usually the PC microphone jack). It creates a PUSH to TALK (PTT) from the PC data port to the radio. Also, the interface matches the impedance of the PC to the impedance of the radio and at the same time it provides electrical isolation to prevent hum from occurring. Of course, there will be cables needed to connect the two units together. Note that the diagram shows a SERIAL connection. Some commercial interfaces use USB only. Others use USB only with no audio connections. The diagram fits less elaborate and expensive or home brewed PC to RIG interfaces.

More on Interfaces: For home brewed interfaces, simply do a Google or Yahoo search and you will find a few. Some popular commercial PSK-31 interfaces are: Westmountain radio's RigBlaster series, BuxxCom Rascal V, MFJ 1279, Mix-W's (PSK software) Rig Expert, and Tiger Tronics Signal Link. If you buy an

Radioman PSK-31 article...



PSK-31 Set up at Radioman's Shack

interface, Radioman recommends the USB model. Why? If you upgrade your PC, then your interface will easily be "upwards" compatible. Check out www.eham.net for user reviews of interfaces. As Radioman always says, "There are some crack-pot reviewers, but 99% of the reviews are honestly stated and contain useful information. You'll see what I mean".

Tuning In: There are "gentleman's agreement" standard frequencies to operate PSK-31 on. These frequencies are like "watering holes" where everyone tunes to. You could use any frequency in the digital part of the band plan. Perhaps if you want to experiment with set up and operation with your ham buddy across town, then it is OK to choose a non-planned frequency, but stay out of the CW part of the band. You will not make any QSOs with hams around the world unless you use the designated frequencies.

Some of the frequencies are: 80M – 3.580 MHz, 40M – 7.070 MHz, 20M – 14.070 MHz. Set your radio to USB for the Software to work correctly.

Radioman will not go into the every nitty-gritty details of how to make things work in this article. However, here is some preliminary info:

Contact your Dummy Load. Learn how to use your set up with a dummy antenna. Connect a watt meter and dummy load to your rig. The software has a PTT button which sends out the idle tone. Use this to set up your transmit. At first, use a low power, say 10 watts. Adjust the combination of PC sound card and rig mic gain so your rigs ALC (automatic level control) to be ZERO. The ALC must not kick in or the audio chain in your transmitter will distort your transit signal. After you are satisfied, then turn up the Power Out control to be no more than 25 watts.

I can hear you now. Connect your antenna. You should see some indication on the PC spectrum screen that you are receiving audio. On Digipan the spectrum area turns yellow when there is noise and makes yellow lines to indicate a PSK signal. On the 756 Pro 3, the speaker audio control must be turned up a bit while using the mic jack to capture the receive audio.

Snake Oil? The Digipan PSK-31 software has many automated features. Radio man has explored some of them. The program can be used as a contact log and if your PC is connected to the internet, the typed in call sign can be look up via QRZ dot com. There are Function Keys like your PCs keyboard. Each of the 24 F keys can contain a pre programmed text to be sent. Within that text there can be commands placed. Example: **<TX> CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ de <MYCALL> <RCV>.** The message is CQ. The commands are separated by <>. You can see that when you push the F key the program automatically operates the PTT, sends the message, looks your call sign up and sends that, and then places the radio back in the receive mode so you can see if someone is calling you. Some of the F key messages include the text to answer a CQ, your QTH info, your name, a detailed description of your radio and set up, sign off info, and the usual stuff that is trans-

mitted during a CW or SSB high frequency QSO.

Have fun and try it. Radioman has made some observations while making PSK contacts. A lot of hams who have using PSK for a while are attracted to it because they are verbose. There are many seasoned CW operators who have lost their hearing and totally deaf hams who gravitate to PSK-31. Radioman remembers a retired newspaper reporter and a retired college professor who had a lot of interesting things to say for hours. Radioman has accidentally made QSOs with South America and European hams using one watt power out. Shame on you Radioman for not using a dummy load. But he thought that no one would hear him if he turned the power output control all the way CCW.

Radioman concludes that PSK-31 is a great and very popular mode to operate on the high frequency bands. Some emergency services clubs are using it because it can transmit a file of plain text. It is easy to get into with a simple interface that can be home built. However, if you are detailed oriented, you might be wondering if Radioman has left out some info. He has. Radioman encourages you to read more about it in the ARRL's Operating Manual and if you are interested in the other digital modes like: RTTY, Pactor, Winlink 2000, and others; then pick up a copy of the ARRL's HF Digital Handbook. Radioman hopes that you will shut off the reruns of Earl and CSI and read about your hobby. You'll become a better ham radio operator.

Have trust in Radioman, a FCC licensed radio professional. Email your ham radio related questions to: radioman@w7dk.org Until next month…

The W7OS Antique Radio Museum
presents...
Straight Key Night DO-OVER
de W7OS
de W7OS
Saturday, Feb 10 at 4:00 PM PST
Come on by and help us make the old radio
contacts we didn't make on SKN. Then stay
for Jill's Valentines Day Party.
info: kr7w@arrl.net 253.274.8657

BIG NEWS: CW TESTING GONE!

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 24, 2007 --

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules in accordance with the FCC's *Report and Order* (*R&O*) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235. Beginning on that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Publication of the new rules in the January 24 *Federal Register* started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement -- still a matter of controversy within the amateur community -- is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" *R&O* that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint. The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The *R&O* appearing in the *Federal Register* constitutes the official version of the new rules.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, all Technicians will have CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. When the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

On or after February 23, an applicant holding a valid *Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination* (*CSCE*) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A *CSCE* is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, *no exceptions*. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid *CSCE* for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is *not* automatic for those holding valid *CSCE*s for element credit. "You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may *not* operate as /AG or /AE *until* you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade," he stresses. "A valid *CSCE* for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges." Henderson also advises all radio amateurs to know and fully understand their operating privileges before taking to the airwaves. Some Technician licensees reportedly started showing up on 75 meters December 15 in the mistaken belief that they had gained phone privileges there.

The FCC *R&O* includes an *Order on Reconsideration* in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz so there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page.

HEY LOOK!! Let's play—Match the Telegraph Key to the CW Operator Game

All of the Keys match amateur operators shown on this page. There's more to match up on the next page. Step right up… try your luck… you just might win a new Buick or some resistors.

Chuck AC7QN

1

PRACTICE LINES

A

2

FESTER KF7STR

B

3

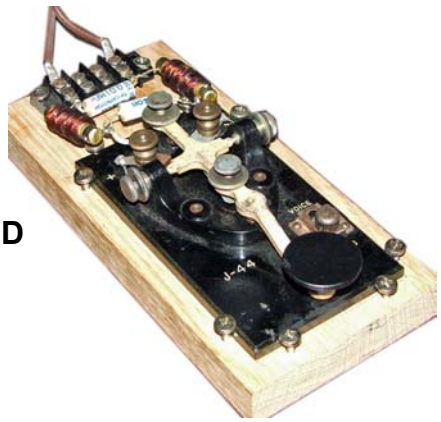
Doug AD7AV

C

Contest results will be posted in the March Bark, on the 2M Tuesday Nite Net, the w7dk.org website, and at the Clubhouse.
Don't wait !!
Enter the contest today!

4

PETE KK7QW



D

Submit your answer in the form of: Ham—Key, or 1-D, 2-A, 3-B, and so on via email to:
email to: editor@w7dk.org. OR, just draw some lines across the page and mail it to:
RCT Key Game, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411 MORE on NEXT PAGE—->

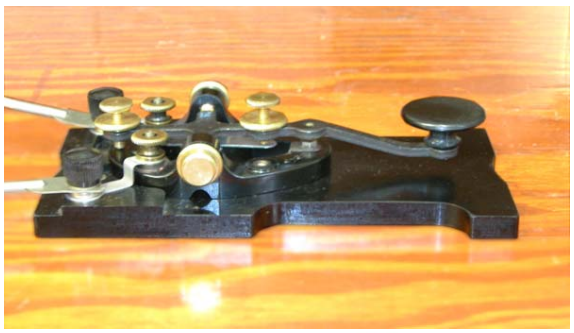
The Match the Telegraph Key to the Amateur Operator Game…. Page 2

All of the Keys on this page match the ham operators on this page.

RICH KR7W

5

E



MOREL W6LIX

6

F

ALAN N7OMS

7

PRACTICE LINE

G

WORTH W7WG

8

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Enter the contest today!

H

Submit your answer in the form of: Ham-Key, or 5-H, 6-G, 7-B, and so on… email to: editor@w7dk.org.
OR, just draw some lines across the page and mail it to:
RCT Key Game, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411

January Birthdays!

1	Bob Heselberg	**K7MXE**
1	Ken Keigley	**W7DM**
2	Dan Hale	**KC7IEI**
6	Jeff Carter	**W7WAL**
6	John Clarke	**AC7WW**
9	Donald Severeid	**K7LMN**
10	Deanna Jenks	**KE7ING**
11	Leonard Burstiner	**KA7NWF**
11	Paul LeBlanc	**K7AXJ**
13	Nicolin Langlow	
14	Ray Pedersen	**W7KFN**
14	Stan Nelson	**K7DKK**
16	Stephen Morton	**AD7AB**
17	Marvin Wheeler	**KG7V**
18	Gary McAdams	**WG7X**
19	Al Zuck	**KJ7UI**
22	Pete David	**KK7QW**
22	Rick Rose	**KE7EMW**
23	Art Allen	**KD7KQE**
23	Bill Stephens	**KD7KPV**
23	Jean Wheeler	**W7OII**
25	Donald Olson	**W7DON**
27	Perry Lind	**KC7ZEE**
28	Bob Hagar	**W7SKI**
29	Kirk Schroll	**KC7UFY**

February Birthdays!

1	Ollie Bond Jr	**AD7CC**
2	Gwen Root	**KD7NES**
3	John Cohen	**KE7HKS**
4	Dick Strong	**W6PWR**
9	Joe Pavia	**KD7LJ**
10	Rich Manson	**N7ANF**
11	Doug Oakman	**AD7AV**
12	Steve Klinko	**WB2LKI**
14	Mark Terjeson	**N7FIT**
15	Elaine Lyle	**N7WGO**
15	Gary Kohtala	**K7EK**
15	Ken Gibson	**KE7IGZ**
16	David Reed	**WA5OK**
19	Oliver Larsen	**W7WIA**
21	Pam Terjeson	**KC7AZV**
22	Larry Law	**KE7GCB**
22	Tressie Hughes	**KC7BAL**
24	John Thomas	**N7JFM**
25	Joe Baldassari	**W7RQ**
26	Guy Skeer	**KD6RGZ**
27	Ed Root Jr	**KC7OKS**
28	Bill Karle	**KG4UPN**

Notes from all over...

Si Nelsen, Jr. KA7AQT

****

When Marine VHF Radio Fails?

In the "Grand Banks": "Spray" magazine of this fall there is a critique of the "Grand Tour" to Alaska by a flotilla of sixteen of these boats. Under lessons learned p21:

" VHF radio > While all of the boats were equipped with multiple radios, it had to be kept in mind that VHF is line-of-sight. With so many mountains around, VHF can become unreliable at best."

"Cell Phone coverage > Cell phone coverage was not dependable although it was usually available near and around major ports."

There is another system that can be used on the inside passage of BC. It is not unlike a system that allows Seattle Coast Guard to communicate the far southern sound and north. VHF repeaters on high ground permit wide area communication. There is such a system along the East coast of Vancouver Island known as the "Vancouver Island Trunk System" (VITS). Talking around a headland or from one fjord into another should be easily done. These repeaters are linked together and run the length of Vancouver Island. One may contact another vessel from Victoria to another at Nanaimo. This is an example of linked repeater use. Nets are another way to get a message through. Remember that amateur means no charges or fees.

What are required: a capable radio and a Technician Class Amateur Radio License. To receive e-mail via radio a General class license is required. There is no Morse code requirement!

When marine VHF radio fails to get the message through this is a good option and possibly the only one.
Check it out:
http://www.islandtrunksystem.org

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LIGHTNING BUG

Chuck, AC7QN, erects his 20 meter vertical Moxon antenna in the sand at Owen Beach for this year's **F**reeze **Y**our **B**uns **O**ff QRP Winter Field Day Contest. Harry, W7HSA, looks on to provide a helping hand if needed. Chuck's antenna is supported by two collapsible fiberglass fishing poles. One pole is shorter than the other, so a PVC pipe extender is needed. This photo shows the position of the poles before they were erected vertical and guyed. This antenna provides some forward gain with a good front to back ratio.

Chuck, AC7QN, checks for duplicate contacts while he operates his Yaesu FT-817 QRP transceiver on 20 meter Single Sideband in this year's **F**reeze **Y**our **B**uns **O**ff QRP Winter Field Day Contest. Chuck operated in the picnic shelter at Owen Beach. A 75 foot piece of coax was extended from the shelter to the sand to connect to the Moxon antenna. Chuck gained points from the Minnesota and Delaware QSO parties that were on the air at the same time. This year's temperature reported in the FYBO contest was 39 degrees which gives the score a X 4 multiplier. More photos to appear in next month's Bark.

The Radio Club of Tacoma's

Logger's Bark

The Logger's Bark **is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*… and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.**

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Vice Pres: Jill Palmer, K7JIL, 253-539-7772, hamtalker2@msn.com
Secretary: Larry Watson, KD4VOM, rwatson@chirpmail.com
Treasurer: POSITION TO BE FILLED– email PRES for info

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Gary McAdams, WG7X, 253-984-0868, see roster email address
Nick Winter, K7MO, 253-474-3788, wjnjr@blarg.net
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The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org. If a condensed paper copy is needed… then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.
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Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

TO RCT MEMBER:

FEBRUARY 2007 EVENTS

Club Meetings: Wednesdays February 14th and 28th at the library Administration building at 7:30 PM, 112th & Waller road. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting, Wednesday February 7th 7:30 PM at the. Clubhouse - All members welcome.

New Technician class: Saturday and Sunday February 10/11 at the RCT Clubhouse.

SKN Do-Over: Saturday February 10th at 4:00 PM. at the RCT Clubhouse.

Jill's Valentines Day Extravaganza: Saturday February 10th at 6:00 PM at the RCT Clubhouse.

License Testing - Tuesday, February 13th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse.

BARK deadline Saturday February 24th 2007- PLEASE get articles, columns, etc. in by that time!

- Support OUR club - Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer.
- Check in to the 2-meter Net every Tuesday night at 7:30, on 147.28. Hear additional information on programs and other events.
- Check in on the 10 Meter Net every Sunday evening, 8 PM, on 28.375 MHz USB